grace the occasion with his presence. President Manuel L. Quezon opened the ceremonies, but the ripple of applause which he received was not in accord with the usual ovation given him, and among the independents especially there was a hint of objection to his presence in a convention of which he was not a delegate. However, as said, the plans perfected before the meeting were carried out without a hitch after a parliamentary tangle had threatened to prolong the session.

From day to day optimistic announcements were made that the Convention would conclude its task on such and such a date. The date, however, invariably had to be moved forward. In fact six full months were needed for the Convention to draft a constitution.

One reason for the slow progress in constitution making was the unwieldiness of such a large body. This unwieldiness was further enhanced by the number of committees that were named, practically fifty in all, with some committees having as many as forty-five members and with the Sponsorship Committee having eighty-seven members. Eventually the folly of such a course became so apparent that a subcommittee of seven in the Sponsorship Committee was created to draft the Constitution. This Drafting Committee was composed of Delegates Filemon Sotto, Manuel A. Roxas, Manuel Briones, Vicente Singson Encarnacion, Norberto Romualdez, Miguel Cuaderno, and Conrado Benitez. The committee, assisted by the Convention President, got down to work at once and succeeded in speeding up the deliberations of the

Convention.

Another reason for delay was that freedom of discussion was allowed in committees and on the floor of the Convention. The delegates, naturally gifted public speakers, took frequent and long advantage of this privilege. Many of them in their dreams undoubtedly saw themselves wearing the mantle of James Madison or of Felipe Calderon, to be acclaimed in history as the author of the Philippine Constitution. The result